

COMMISIONERS PRESENT

Gil Palmer, Chairperson Ian Kohen, Vice Chairperson Trena Carter, Treasurer John Roberts, Secretary Kelly Benjamin Greg Lewis Richard Gold John Stroh Tony McClendon Annette Barnes

COMMISIONERS ABSENT

Rhea Baker-Ipek

STAFF PRESENT

Lorraine Smith, Director Frances Jordan, Deputy Director Betsy Schuette, Secretary

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

GUESTS PRESENT

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Commissioner Benjamin reported a correction to the July minutes stating the information in the minutes did not clearly reflect the correction on the June minutes. After discussion, Commissioner Stroh moved that the June meeting minutes be amended to show that Commissioner Roberts and Commissioner McClendon were present at the June meeting and made the motion and second on the Treasurer's Report. Commissioner Gold seconded. Motion carried.

Commissioner Benjamin also recommended a change in the second sentence of the July minutes which was a report on the 'Threads of Diversity' so that it more accurately reflected the discussion. Commissioner Benjamin recommended that the sentence be changed from "The main goal is to provide more education, understanding, awareness and knowledge of the LGBT community to Columbus residents as to why they don't feel welcomed and at times threatened." to "The main goal is to provide more education, understanding, awareness and knowledge of the LGBT community to Columbus residents as to why some may not feel welcomed and at times threatened."

Commissioner Benjamin made a motion to accept the July minutes with the amendments to the June minutes and the amendments regarding the change to the 'Threads of Diversity' sentence in the July minutes. Commissioner Stroh seconded. Motion carried. July minutes were approved as amended.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Commissioner Carter reported ticket revenue in the amount \$30.00 was added to the Donation Account bringing the balance to \$5,409.37. The remaining balance of \$716.37 from the Non-Reverting Fund was transferred to the Donation Account for a total of \$6,125.74. The Non-Reverting Fund balance was transferred since there is no benefit of having the Non-Reverting Fund and the Donation Account. However, the Non-Reverting Fund will remain open with a zero balance. The Heritage Fund Grant account has a balance of \$2,311.02 after expenses for the 'Adventures in DiversCity' project. Monies will be returned after the final report is submitted to Heritage Fund. Commissioner Roberts moved that the Treasurer's Report with the discussion be accepted. Commissioner Gold seconded. Motion carried.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

No Report.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Casework:

The office continues to be busy with case work. The following is case activity updates:

- 1 CHRC/EEOC dual filed case closed- Predetermination settlement reached through EEOC.
- Technical Assistance-Deceptive Business Practice, Disability- Referred to Attorney General Consumer Complaint Division.
- 1 CHRC-Sexual Harassment in Employment filing.

Office:

- Director Smith reported the she is still working on the Not-for-Profit training she will be conducting through the Heritage Fund Not-for-Profit series, which will take place September 18th.
- Director Smith and Deputy Director Jordan continue to attend the Mayor's Staff meeting and the Board of Works meetings.
- Director Smith informed the Commissioners that Deputy Director Jordan has accepted a job with the
 Texas Department of Health and Human Services as a Civil Rights Specialist and starts September 11th.
 Director Smith expressed appreciation for all Deputy Director Jordan has done for the Human Rights
 Commission as well as City Hall. Director Smith stated that Deputy Director Jordan will be missed.
- Advertisement for Deputy Director Jordan's position has been running in The Republic, Indianapolis Star, Career Builder, Monster, Idealist.com, The Recorder, Law schools and other venues. The ad has generated several inquiries about the position. Director Smith hopes to make a quick transition with the right person who has the right skills.

Audit and Review Committee:

- Chief Maddox reported to Director Smith that the bulk of the participants in the Citizen's Police Academy
 were mostly CAMEO members. Deputy Director Smith expressed their participation could be beneficial by
 creating mutual understanding because those coming from other countries sometimes have a different
 relationship with the police in their native country.
- Director Smith reported that Annette Barnes had attended the last Audit and Review Committee meeting which was omitted from the last month's Commission meeting.

OTHER ACTIVITIES:

Columbus Safe Community Six Sigma Project:

Director Smith updated the Commission on the Six Sigma Project in that the group is still in the data gathering stage.

Outreach Committee/Heritage Fund Executive Committee:

Director Smith continues to attend the Heritage Fund Grant Committee meetings that have made decisions on several grant programs. She provided the Commissioners with updates on the following programs:

- Community Portal a centrally located digital representation gather information about Columbus.
- Mayor's Neighborhood Revitalization, including the 9th Street area projects.

She reported that the Outreach Committee has begun a Six Sigma Project on the feasibility of establishing a Multicultural Center would bring people from different cultures together in one physical location.

Director Smith continues to meet monthly with the Mayor and leaders in the community at the Mayor's African American Lunch meetings.

50th Anniversary MLK March on Washington-Bus Trip:

Director Smith expressed pride in the news report done regarding the bus trip to Washington for the 50th Anniversary March on Washington. Director Smith was interviewed by reporter, Lori Wilson, with WISH TV and felt the Commissions part in the report was we represented. Commissioner Lewis' was interviewed for taking two of his students on the trip. Commissioners viewed the news report. Commissioner Lewis reported his experience with the trip. Discussion ensued.

Director Smith reported meeting with a newcomer to Columbus from Tanzania. Ryan Hou with LHP requested Director Smith meet with a gentleman from Tanzania who is very interested in the work of the Commission. He came to the United States on a visa provided by the United States through a lottery program which provides visas immigrants from countries that do not generally come to the United States. He is currently working as an engineer at LHP and his wife is an engineer at Cummins. Director Smith felt that Mr. Hou referring him to the Commission speaks volumes about the work done by the Human Rights Commission.

Upcoming:

- Mayor Brown asked Director Smith to attend the Landlord Association meeting on September 14 at the Bartholomew County Fairgrounds.
- The first reading of the Salary Ordinance did not include a cost of living adjustment and the second
 meeting should be in the next week where it will be determined if a cost of living adjustment will be
 included.
- City Council passed the Ethics Resolution that will outline the expected behaviors for all city employees, committees, commissioners and boards. Training for the Commissioners will be taking place sometime in the future.
- Pride Alliance Annual Picnic will be at Mill Race on September 8th, 4pm-dusk.

ACTION ITEMS

Threads of Diversity:

Commissioner Barnes reported that after meeting with the Commission and the Ad-Hic Committee she attended the Pride Alliance meeting to discuss the Commission's role in the viewing of the "Threads of Diversity" video by the community. Commissioner Barnes explained to Pride Alliance that the Human Rights Commission would have a supportive role of the event but would not take the lead on it. Commissioner Barnes agreed with the Pride Alliance members that the best way for the Commission to be supportive would be to have the Commission as a sponsor of the screening at City Hall, October 9th at 5:30-8:00. The Columbus Human Rights Commission will be listed as a sponsor on their advertising with the following statement: "The Columbus Human Rights Commission supports this event in its continuing efforts to inform and educate." Commissioner McClendon moved to adopt the statement regarding the event. Commissioner Barnes seconded. Motion carried. The statement was approved.

LIAISON REPORTS

- Commissioner Lewis reported he attended the August 14th CAMEO meeting which had 30 community members in attendance. Cathy Oren was the guest speaker representing the Community Education Coalition and she discussed Busy Bees, iGrad. She also discussed Echo 15 which is an initiative to provide educational opportunities and promote careers in tourism, manufacturing and healthcare. The Trinbago Association was the host association. Wayne De Freitas presented an overview and a video of Trinbago. Trinbago will be the host country for Ethnic Expo this year. The CAMEO Film festival will be November 11-15 during the Learning Center's International Week. The festival will be held at the Learning Center not Yes Cinema as it usually is. The Chinese, Korean, Indian and Latin American Associations will be host films. The Uncommon Cause fundraiser on October 26th will have a Bollywood theme. The Middle Eastern Association is hosting a domestic violence workshop in October. Wayne Hanrattie had also presented on his MLK 50th Anniversary March on Washington bus trip at the CAMEO meeting.
- Commissioner Stroh reported the Inclusive Community Coalition had no meeting.
- Commissioner Roberts reported Transit Authority Board meeting is scheduled for Friday, August 30th. He will give his report on that meeting at the September Commission meeting.
- Commissioner Barnes reported attending the Pride Alliance meeting where they discussed future screenings of the "Threads of Diversity". Some of the screenings included September 22nd at First Presbyterian and October 9th at City Hall. They discussed their initiatives for the year. Commissioner Barnes reported that Pride Alliance discussed participating in other activities such as: the Diversity Circles, the Six Sigma Safe Initiative, Senior outreach for LGBT, screening of 'Threads of Diversity' at their Inside-Out festival and the Laramie Project. At the Pride Alliance meeting, Commissioner Barnes was also introduced as the Pride Alliance liaison for the Human Rights Commission.

ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Roberts moved that the meeting be adjourned. Commissioner Benjamin seconded. Motion carried meeting adjourned.